RESERVE OFFICER TRAINING CORPS (ROTC)

Air Force

Worcester State students have the opportunity to participate in Air Force ROTC ("AFROTC") through the AFROTC Detachment at Worcester Polytechnic Institute. The AFROTC program is voluntary and open to all students who seek the challenge of being an officer in the United States Air Force upon graduation from college.

Four-Year Program: This traditional program is the more popular choice. The first two years are known as the General Military Course (GMC). Classes meet one hour a week and are required for freshmen and sophomores. There is no military obligation for the first two years of AFROTC unless a student has an AFROTC scholarship. Students who successfully complete the GMC compete nationwide for entry into the Professional Officers Course (POC), which meets three hours a week and is required for juniors and seniors. Officer candidates in the POC (and on scholarship) receive a nontaxable subsistence allowance of up to $500 a month. In addition, qualified officer candidates attend the AFROTC field training program for four weeks between their sophomore and junior years.

Three-Year Program: Students may also choose an accelerated three-year option, which shortens the standard four-year program by condensing the GMC from two years to one. This option gives students the flexibility to begin AFROTC in their sophomore year (or junior year with one year of graduate study).

To participate in AFROTC students must be United States citizens (or naturalized by the end of their sophomore year), of good moral character, and in sound physical condition. Students interested in AFROTC should write to the Professor of Aerospace Studies AFROTC Detachment 340, Worcester Polytechnic Institute, 37 Institute Road, Worcester, MA 01609-2280, call 508-831-5747 or email afrotc@wpi.edu for further details and the latest information on scholarship opportunities.

Army

The Army Reserve Officers’ Training Corps (ROTC), is offered by Worcester Polytechnic Institute and is available to all Worcester State students. American citizens who are physically qualified and who satisfactorily complete the entire four-year program will be commissioned in the United States Army. Graduates serve as second lieutenants in the Active Army or the reserve components. Delayed entry on active service for the purpose of graduate school is available. Military science is designed to complement other instruction offered by Worcester State. Emphasis throughout is on the development of individual leadership abilities and preparation of the student for future important leadership roles in the Army. There are two variations of ROTC available to the student who desires to participate: a four-year program, in which students participate in required military science courses and activities for four academic years. Attendance at a six-week advanced training camp is required between the third and fourth year.

The two-year ROTC program is intended for students in their second year of college who want to enroll in ROTC in their junior year. It begins with a six-week basic summer training camp, with pay, between the sophomore and junior years. Upon successful completion of basic camp, the student participates in the third year of ROTC and attends the advanced camp during the next summer. As an alternative, an enlisted member of the Army National Guard or Army Reserve who has completed basic training can qualify for the two-year ROTC Simultaneous Membership Program (SMP).

All students enrolled in the last two years of the program receive a tax-free cash stipend of $100 each month in school. Two- and three-year Army ROTC scholarships are available for students who wish to apply. The scholarship is based on the achievements of the applicants, not the financial status of their families. The ROTC scholarship covers tuition and most required fees, paid directly to the college. It also pays directly to the student $450 per year for books and a $100 monthly cash stipend, each month in school. Both are tax free. Members of Army Reserve and National Guard may participate in the ROTC/SMP as college juniors, receiving a reserve officer commission upon successful completion of the military science requirements. SMP cadets remain members of their unit and earn E-5 drill pay in addition to the tax-free stipend of $100 per month through ROTC. Additionally, Massachusetts National Guard ROTC/ SMP members receive free tuition at state schools.

Students interested in Army ROTC should contact the Professor of Military Science, Military Science Department, Worcester Polytechnic Institute, 100 Institute Road, Worcester, MA 01609, or call 508-831-5268. Offices are located in Room 28A, Harrington Auditorium.

Navy

Programs leading to a commission as an officer in the United States Navy or Marine Corps are available to all qualified Worcester State male and female students through cross-enrollment in the Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps Unit at the College of the Holy Cross. Students can participate as Scholarship or College Program (non-scholarship) students in either a four-year or two-year Naval ROTC ("NROTC") program. The basic qualifications for enrollment in the NROTC Program are United States citizenship, good moral character, and sound physical condition.

High school students, in the Fall of their senior year, can apply through the national competition for three- and four-year NROTC Scholarships. If selected, they receive full tuition, payment of most fees, and a $150 per month tax-free stipend. Along with their college degree requirements, NROTC students are required to complete one Naval Science course each semester and also participate in one two-hour weekly unit drill period. Additionally, scholarship NROTC students participate in summer training cruises after their first-year, sophomore year, and junior year. The summer cruises are four to six weeks in length, with pay and allowances, and afford an opportunity for practical experience and travel. Upon successful completion of the NROTC program, graduates are commissioned ensigns in the Navy or second lieutenants in the Marine Corps and are required to serve at least four years on active duty.

First-year and sophomore students can apply for the two-year NROTC Scholarship Program during their first two years in college. If selected, they receive full tuition, payment of most fees, and a $150 per month tax-free stipend. They attend a six-week indoctrination course during the summer preceding their junior year at the Naval Science Institute at Newport, Rhode Island. Along with their remaining college degree requirements, they are required to complete one Naval Science course each semester and also participate in one two-hour weekly unit drill period during their junior and senior years. They are required to serve at least four years on active duty after commissioning.

Students can also participate as College Program (non-scholarship) students in either the four-year or two-year NROTC Program. Students apply directly to the Professor of Naval Science at the College of the Holy Cross for enrollment. The program provides military uniforms and during
the junior and senior years a subsistence allowance of $150 per month. College Program students are required to complete one Naval Science course each semester and also participate in one two-hour weekly unit drill period. They also participate in one summer training cruise preceding their senior year. Once enrolled in the NROTC Program, College Program students are eligible to apply for scholarships based on their academic record and performance in the NROTC Unit. Scholarships of one, two, and three years are available.

Upon successful completion of the program, College Program students are commissioned in the Naval or Marine Corps Reserve and are required to serve at least three years on active duty after commissioning. For additional information about the NROTC Program, contact the Professor of Naval Science, Naval ROTC Unit, College of the Holy Cross, Worcester, MA 01610-2389; 508-793-2434 or nrotc@holycross.edu.